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Garment called 'Deep Throat'

Nixon counsel, not Haig, was informant, former T-man says

By Clark Norton
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LOS ANGELES — A former high-ranking White House and Treasury Department official with access to top secret intelligence reports says the real "Deep Throat" was not Alexander Haig, as claimed by John Dean, but Leonard Garment, acting counsel to President Richard Nixon during the final year and a half of Watergate.

Edward L. Morgan, who served as Treasury's "top cop" from 1973 to 1974, says the identity of "Deep Throat" was revealed to him by intelligence reports from Secret Service agents then under his jurisdiction.

Morgan was one of Nixon aide John Ehrlichman's principal deputies at the White House from 1969 to 1972 and subsequently served as assistant secretary of the Treasury from January, 1973, until February, 1974, running all of Treasury's intelligence operations.

Morgan was also United Nation's representative to Interpol during the same period and was elected to Interpol's governing council in October, 1973. He went to prison in 1975 for his own role in illegal Nixon administration activities.

GARMENT, A TRIAL lawyer who previously had been an associate of Nixon's at the New York law firm of

Mudge, Rose, Guthrie and Alexander, joined Nixon at the White House as a special consultant to the president and served from 1969 to 1973. Garment then succeeded Dean as counsel to the president following Dean's forced resignation in April, 1973. Garment remained in that position until Nixon resigned in August, 1974.

"Deep Throat" was the code name of a clandestine, highly placed Executive Office official of the Nixon administration credited by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein with providing or confirming many of their most significant Watergate revelations. Woodward, Deep Throat's contact, has said he will never divulge the identity.

Morgan says that in early 1973 he received intelligence reports from four Secret Service agents detailing Garment's activities as an informant.

"The reports were relayed orally to me everywhere from parking lots to grocery stores to bars," Morgan said. "You have to understand that nobody referred to Garment as Deep Throat at that time," Morgan added. "Woodward was using him strictly for 'deep background' in his Post stories then. What I knew was that Garment was regularly meeting with and supplying information to Woodward. I also knew of at least two

other informants of lesser importance."

MORGAN SAID he later easily recognized Garment as the Deep Throat portrayed by Woodward and Bernstein in their book "All the President's Men," which he read in prison in 1975.

Morgan said the Secret Service agents previously had reported to him Garment's participation in several activities Woodward and Bernstein described in "All the President's Men": Woodward's 2 a.m. meeting with Deep Throat in an underground parking garage, Woodward's and Deep Throat's prearranged signals using a flowerpot and marked copies of the New York Times, Woodward's meeting with Deep Throat in a bar on the outskirts of Washington.

Morgan said that he has counted numerous other descriptive clues to Deep Throat's identity in "All the President's Men," many of which "only Garment's closest friends at the time, and I include myself among them, might recognize. Some, such as a tendency to be 'rowdy,' to 'drink too much,' 'to overreach' or to 'gossip,' could apply to lots of other people besides Len. You start to narrow the list down further, though, when Deep Throat is described as a Scotch-drinking lawyer who smoked."